

A New Species of *Rhagonycha* from Alaska¹

(Coleoptera: Cantharidae)

KENNETH M. FENDER

Linfield Research Institute, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

The following species had been tentatively placed with *Rhagonycha mandibularis* (Kirby), its nearest relative. Additional material and the redescription of Kirby's species by Green (1940) proved this to be misplaced. An undescribed species was at hand.

Fall (1926) resurrected *Cantharis mandibularis* Kirby when he compared specimens with one of Kirby's cotypes. Prior to this it had been placed as a synonym of *Cantharis fraxini* Say.

In 1971, I assigned to the genus *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, that section of *Cantharis* of North America in which the species had the third tarsal segment simple and the insertion of the fourth segment apical. *Rhagonycha* has been recognized as a valid genus by European students for years. Both Green and McKey-Fender (1950) had suggested such a separation but neither followed through on it.

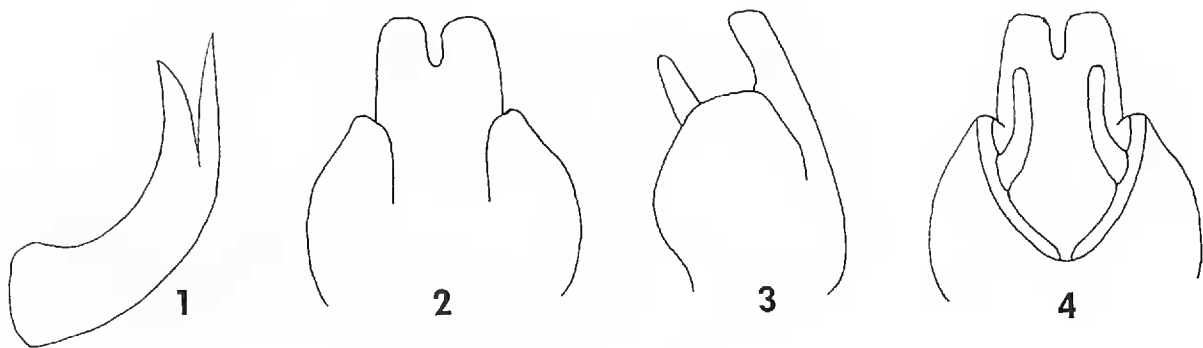
Rhagonycha alaskensis Fender, new species

(Figs. 1-4)

Dark brown, sides of pronotum obscurely paler; head black, antennae and maxillary palpi piceous, palpi a little paler; mandibles and trochanters of prolegs ferruginotestaceous. Pubescence cinereous, suberect, fine, sparse and inconspicuous.

MALE.—Eyes moderately large and prominent, separated by about one and one-third combined widths as viewed from above. Head as wide as pronotum, finely sparsely punctured, shining in front of antennae, finely alutaceous behind; clypeal apex oblique each side of median notch; antennae slender, filiform extending to about middle of elytra, third segment nearly twice as long as second, intermediate segments nearly four times as long as wide. Pronotum subquadrate, slightly wider than long; anterior margin evenly rounded and shallowly reflexed, anterior angles evenly rounded into nearly straight and almost parallel lateral margins; basal angles sharply rounded; basal margin feebly arcuate, strongly reflexed medially; sides shallowly reflexed at hind angles, becoming feebly explanate towards anterior angles; sub-basal convexities not prominent; surface finely sparsely punctured, feebly shining. Combined elytra wider than pronotum, about three and one-third times as long as width at humeri, coarsely sparsely punctured basally, rugose punctate beyond basal fifth, two costae feebly elevated and feebly indicated in each. Metasternum shining, finely sparsely punctured. Abdominal sternites dull, finely sparsely punctured, finely transversely strigulose towards sides. Tarsal claws narrowly cleft at apices. Aedeagus with apical margin of dorsal plate narrowly deeply

¹ This study was supported by National Science Foundation Grant: GB-6283X.



FIGS. 1-4. *Rhagonycha alaskensis*. FIG. 1. Protarsal claw of male. FIG. 2. Male aedeagus, dorsal view. FIG. 3. Same, lateral view. FIG. 4. Same, ventral view.

incised. All tarsi with third segment simple, insertion of fourth segment apical. Length 5.5 mm.

FEMALE.—Unknown.

Holotype male, MATANUSKA, ALASKA, 26 June 1914, rotary trap, J. C. Chamberlain. In the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

This species is nearest to *Rhagonycha mandibularis* (Kirby). But the pronotum of *R. mandibularis* is more transverse, being three-tenths wider than long and narrowed in front to the obsolete anterior angles. The tarsal claws of *R. mandibularis* are unusually small, and the dorsal plate of the aedeagus narrows from base to apex with the apical margin more broadly and less deeply incised.

LITERATURE CITED

- FALL, H. C. 1926. A list of the Coleoptera taken in Alaska and adjacent parts of the Yukon Territory in the summer of 1924. *Pan-Pac. Entomol.*, 2: 127-154.
- FENDER, K. M. 1971. The genus *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz in North America (Coleoptera: Cantharidae). *Coleopt. Bull.*, 25: 86-87.
- GREEN, J. W. 1940. Taxonomic studies in *Cantharis* (Coleoptera: Cantharidae). *Entomol. Amer.*, 20: 159-217.
- McKEY-FENDER, D. 1950. Notes on *Cantharis* III (Coleoptera: Cantharidae). *Pan-Pac. Entomol.*, 26: 25-33; 26(2): 61-79.

CORRECTION

- FORISTER, G. W. AND C. D. JOHNSON. 1971. Behavior and ecology of *Acanthoscelides prosopoides* (Coleoptera: Bruchidae). *Pan-Pac. Entomol.*, 47(3): 224-234.

On page 226, line 16 should be inserted between lines 12 and 13.—C. D. JOHNSON, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, 96001.